Scheme for protection of Gir Lion

1293. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that a scheme for protection, conservation and rearing of Gir Lion was launched in 1972; and

(b) if so, the population of this endangered species in 1972, and at the beginning of Fifth, Sixth Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):

(a) Yes,Sir.

(b) The Census of lions in Gir forests is carried out every fifth year and therefore it is not possible to give the correct population of lions exactly in the years asked for. However the population of lions over the years has been as follows:

Year	Number of Lions
1969	177
1974	180
1979	205
1985	239
1990	284

Depleting population of lions, tigers and Wild Cats

1294. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the population of lions, tigers, and other wild cats has been depleting in different States and Union Territories during the last ten years, despite the implementation of various projects like Project Tiger;

(b) if so, what was the specie-wise population of wild cats, State/Sanctuary-wise, in the beginning and at the end of Sixth and Seventh Five Year Plans, indicating also the latest figures; and

(c) what further steps are being taken for effective protection of the endangered species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) No Sir, The Census figures for Lions, Tigers and Panthers show an increasing trend in the population. However, no census of lesser cats have been carried out on all India level. Readily available State-wise figures for Tigers for the years 1979, 1984 and 1989 and the leapard population in 1984 and 1989 are given in the enclosed *statement* (*See* below.)

The Lions are found only in Gujarat. Its population in 1990 was 284 as against 239 in 1985 and 205 in 1979.

(c) The steps taken by the Govt. for effective protection of endangered species include:

(i) A network of sancturaries and national parks representing all the Zoo geographical zones has been set up. There are at present 73 naional parks and 413 wildlife sancturaries, extending over an area of 1,37,000 Sq. Kms.

(ii) Financial assistance is provided to State Governments for meeting the expenditure on development of national parks/sanctuaries.

(iii) Government of India has been assisting the States in their anti-poaching activities under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Control of poaching and Illegal trade in Wildlife". An amount of Rs. 1.00 crores was provided as assistance under this scheme for strengthening antipoaching infrastructure in the States during the VII Five Year Plan. During 1990-91, Rs 18.58 lakhs and Rs. 40.09 lakhs for the year 1991-92 has been sanctioned under this scheme. Now the scheme together with resources has been transferred to the States as recommended by N.D.C.

(iv) Under the provisions of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, total protection is provided to rare and endangered species of wildlife.

(v) The Government of India is a party to the "Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora" (CITES) under which the international community jointly endeavours to prevent illegal international trade.

(vi) Government of India has set up a Directorate of Wildlife Preservation with four Regional Offices to oversee the implementation of the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 by the State Governments.

Statement

Population of Tigers and Leopards in the Country

Name of State/UT	Tigers			Leopards	
	1979	1984	1989	1984	1989
1	2	3	4	5	6
Tamil Nadu	65	97	95	189	119
Maharashtra	174	301	417	380	580
Kerala	134	89	45	NR	27
West Bengal	296	352	353	112	108
Orissa	173	202	243	266	279
Karnataka	156	202	257	238	283
Bihar	110	138	157	113	134
Assam	300	376	376	123	123
Rajasthan	79	96	99	270	461
Madhya Pradesh	529	786	985	1322	2036
Uttar Pradesh	487	698	735	880	1095
Andhra Pradesh	148	164	235	NR	301
Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	199	199
Meghalaya	35	125	34	NR	—
Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—
Manipur	10	6	31	7	—
Tripura	6	5	—	27	37
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	10
Mizoram	65	33	13	6	38
Nagaland	102	104	104	72	72
Arunachal Pradesh	139	219	135	21	121
Sikkim	—	2	4	NR	1
Gujarat	7	9	9	498	702
Delhi	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
Haryana	—	1	—	10	19
Punjab	—	—	—	—	—
Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—
Goa Daman & Diu	—	—	2	10	18
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—	
Chandigarh U.T.	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	4	4
TOTAL :	3015	4005	4334	4744	6763

Indian stand on environment

1295. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether a national position paper depicting Government's perception of the status of environment in the country and the policy stand to be taken by the Indian delegation at the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development was prepared on the eve of the said conference;

(b) if so, the details of its cantents; and

(c) the extent to which the perceptions, observations and suggestions made therein where reflected in the final outcome of the Conference and the conventions, if any, evolved at the conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) A National report outlining the Traditions, concerns and Efforts in India connected with the environment and development issues was prepared for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held at Rio De Janeiro in June 1992. 5 copies of this report have been placed in the Parliament House Library.

Apart from bringing out broad features of the conservation tradition in India, and the overall concerns about living in harmony with nature, the above mentioned Report highlights some of the activities undertaken by the State by the people and the Non-Governmental Organisations in India, in addressing the environmental issues and in correcting the imbalances between environment and development. The report also seeks to bring out the overall dimensions of the problems India faces and those in which the International community needs to participate in solving for the future.

(c) The main concerns put forward by India and other like minded developing countries included an effort to secure a greater understanding of the issues of environment and development, the overriding priority of poverty eradication measures for prevention of pollution, national sovereignty over natural resources, community participation for the management of these resources, better access to environmentally sound technologies, etc. These concerns have been included in the final outcome of the Rio Conference and the Declarations and Conventions adopted/signed at the conference.